



ETHICS BOARD MEETING ACTION MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2018 | 6:30 P.M.

<u>Ethic Board Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Avery Randolph Co-Chairman	X	
Mary LaSonde Chairman	X	
Rodney Lawrence	X arrived late	
Lucina Sagers - Secretary		X
Walter Denson		X
Sharon Kellam	X	

1. Call Meeting to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Avery Randolph at 6:30 pm.

2. Roll Call:

All Members of the Board were present except for Lucina Sagers and Walter Denson which constituted a quorum.

3. Adoption of the Agenda:

Sharon Kellam made a motion to adopt the agenda with one addition under Old Business; Discussion of the Findings and Recommendations for Council Member Cynthia Stamps-Jones Ethics Complaint. Mary LaSonde provided the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

4. Approval of the Minutes:



Mary LaSonde made a motion to table the minutes of May 17, 2018 with Sharon Kellam providing the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

5. Agenda Items:

6. Old Business:

1) Discussion of an Ethics Board Attorney

There was discussion to provide resumes to the Board at the next meeting for an Ethics Board Attorney.

2) Discussion of Training for New Members

The "Roberts Rules of Order" Book was ordered and provided to the new Board Members. In addition, there was an announcement that training for the new Board Members will be held in the fall of the year. The date for the new Board Members training will be provided later.

3) Nomination of Ethics Board Chairman

A motion was made by Avery Randolph to nominate Mary LaSonde Chairman with Rodney Lawrence providing the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

4) Nomination of Ethics Board Vice Chairman

A motion was made by Rodney Lawrence to nominate Avery Randolph Co-Chairman with Mary LaSonde providing the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

5) Findings and Recommendation of Ethics Complaint against Council Member Stamps-Jones

The Board discussed the findings and recommendations regarding Council Member Stamps-Jones Ethics Complaint. **(Please see attachments)**

Mary LaSonde read the findings and recommendations regarding Council Member Stamps-Jones from the Superior Court. A motion was made by Rodney Lawrence to move forward with the findings and recommendations for prosecution in the Riverdale Municipal Court. Avery Randolph provided the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**



7. New Business

The Board discussed the need for resumes for potential candidates to serve as the Ethics Board Attorney at the next meeting. A consensus was made by the Board to schedule the next meeting for July 26, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

8. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Rodney Lawrence to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm with Sharon Kellam providing the second. **The motion carried.**

Mary LaSonde

Lucina Sagers

STATE OF GEORGIA
CLAYTON COUNTY
CITY OF RIVERDALE

BEFORE THE CITY OF RIVERDALE ETHICS BOARD

In re: May 2, 2017 Ethics Complaint against Councilwoman Cynthia Stamps-Jones

RENEWED FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Now that all appeals are exhausted, the Ethics Board has met to discuss the will of the Board, and it has determined that it is moving forward with its findings and penalties entered on June 20, 2017.

No more appeals exist, and the Superior Court of Clayton County has ordered that Councilwoman Cynthia Stamps-Jones' appeal be dismissed on or around February 21, 2018.

Therefore the Board relies on its findings and penalties from the June 2017 Order, and hereby requires that Councilwoman Cynthia Stamps-Jones adhere to and observe those findings and penalties.

Per City Code Section 3-24(B), failure to adhere to these additional findings and recommendations shall be deemed an intentional violation of the Code of Ethics, and, as such, will make Stamps-Jones susceptible to more severe penalties or punishment for additional findings of a breach, including prosecution in the Riverdale Municipal Court.

Respectfully submitted,

FOR THE ETHICS BOARD

Avery Randolph
Avery Randolph, Interim Chair

This violates the Riverdale Code of Ethics, Section 3-2 Declaration of Policy. The Ethics Board finds that the alleged violated is sustained.

B. Findings and Recommendations

1. After review of the Complaint, and having deliberated upon the evidence presented during the hearing, the Ethics Board makes the following Findings. The determination is unanimous, and based upon a preponderance of the evidence and its probable truth or accuracy, and not on the amount of evidence.¹

2. With regard to Counts 1, 2 and 3, concerning acts committed by Stamps-Jones reflecting Stamps-Jones using her position to coerce, and Stamps-Jones' failure to engage in the proper administration and operation of the city, the Board recommends that Stamps-Jones be required to take training on the process and procedure for booking events or facilities with the Bureau of Cultural Affairs & Leisure Services. Said training shall occur within thirty (30) days of the presentation of these findings to Stamps-Jones.

Furthermore, the Board orders that the City Council issue a public reprimand to Stamps-Jones by reading these findings publically at the next Council meeting, and that these findings are thereto delivered to Stamps-Jones, that they be posted on the City's website, and published in the relevant legal organ.

3. With regard to Counts 4 and 7, concerning acts committed by Stamps-Jones reflecting her interference as an elected official with the job duties of city employees, the Board recommends Stamps-Jones adhere to the Code of Ordinances.

Furthermore, the Board orders Stamps-Jones pay a fine of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), within sixty (60) days of the presentation of these findings to her. Stamps-Jones shall identify, register and attend training for municipal officials with an emphasis on ethics and elected official decorum. Such training shall occur within sixty (60) days of the presentation of these findings to Stamps-Jones, and be paid for by Stamps-Jones personally. The Board further orders that the Council read these findings publically at the next Council

¹ The Board highlights two important points. First, it should be noted that with respect to Count 8, after discussion, the Board reached a conclusion by a vote of 3-2. All other conclusions were reached unanimously. Second, the Board takes note that Ruffin provided no additional evidence or witnesses in support of his Complaint at the hearing. While the Board is satisfied, after a due hearing and at the conclusion of Stamps-Jones' testimony or evidence (or lack thereof) offered in support of her position, with the evidence presented, direct evidence, including live witnesses, supporting, relevant and recent documentation, are essential for these proceedings. The Board will appropriately evaluate the weight of such evidence for all future Complaints brought before this Board.

meeting, and that these findings are thereto delivered to Stamps-Jones, that they be posted on the City's website, and published in the relevant legal organ.

4. With regard to Counts 5 and 6, concerning acts committed by Stamps-Jones reflecting misrepresentation and intentional acts, the Board recommends Stamps-Jones adhere to the Riverdale Code.

The Board further orders that any further violation be understood as not only a violation of the Code of Ordinances, but as an intentional breach of the Code of Ethics, subjecting her to more severe penalties as may be assessed. The Board further orders that the Council read these findings publically at the next Council meeting, that these findings are thereto delivered to Stamps-Jones, that they be posted on the City's website, and published in the relevant legal organ.

5. With regard to Count 8, concerning acts committed by Stamps-Jones reflecting the duty of a councilperson to promote public confidence in the integrity of public servants, the Board recommends Stamps-Jones adhere to the Code of Ordinances.

Furthermore, the Board orders Stamps-Jones to pay a fine of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), within sixty (60) days of the presentation of these findings to Stamps-Jones. The Board further orders that the Council read these findings publically at the next Council meeting, that these findings are thereto delivered to Stamps-Jones, that they be posted on the City's website, and published in the relevant legal organ.

6. Upon additional review and deliberation, the Board concludes, and reiterates the following:

- a) That the Council for the City of Riverdale consider revision to the Code of Ethics and provide a reasonable statute of limitations for matters eligible to be brought before this Board.
- b) That these findings and recommendations be read publically at the next Council meeting, that these findings are thereto delivered to Stamps-Jones, that they be posted on the City's website, and published in the relevant legal organ.
- c) That Stamps-Jones register and attend Ethics and other training available through the Georgia Municipal Authority, or other duly appointed agency within sixty (60) days of the presentation of these findings to Stamps-Jones.
- d) That any and all fees or fines assessed in these Findings and Recommendations be paid personally by Stamps-Jones, and not from a City, campaign, or business account. Furthermore, that all fees and fines be paid within sixty (60) days, and;

- e) Failure to adhere to these additional findings and recommendations be deemed an intentional violation of the Code of Ethics, and as such, will make Stamps-Jones susceptible to more severe penalties or punishment for additional findings of a breach.

C. Conclusion

Issuance of the foregoing Findings and Recommendations concludes the session for which the Ethics Board was most recently empaneled. Accordingly, each member of the Board, has fully and faithfully discharged his/her duties and responsibilities under the Ethics Code with respect to the subject Complaint.

The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to provide these Findings and Recommendations to the Mayor and Council, to Councilmember Stamps-Jones, and to Councilmember Ruffin, in accordance with the Code of Ethics.

Respectfully submitted, this 20th day of June, 2017.

FOR THE ETHICS BOARD

Tammie Hardie

TAMMIE HARDIE
Chairwoman